Dewan's reply.—This has actually been the practice hitherto and will continue so hereafter under the rules recently issued under the Land Revenue Code.

Subject No. 76.
Free grant of Honne, Hunal and Bilvara trees for agricultural implements.

Summary of discussion.—Raiyats are put to much inconvenience owing to the new reservation of lands by the Forest Department. Wood of the unreserved class is not fit for agricultural implements. Raiyats should be permitted to use such wood as Honne, Hunal and Bilvara for the above purpose and they should also be allowed to cut the trees of these kinds in State Forests when the same are not available in the jungles left as *mufat*, to the raiyats of the respective villages.

Dewan's reply.—This is impossible. Sufficient jungle as far as possible has been allotted to the village communities, and favorable rates of seigniorage have already been granted. Further concessions do not seem feasible. The people of Kasaba Shikarpur who have no jungle near them cannot be helped.

Subject No. 77.
Responsibility of Khatedar for sandal trees on his Khate land.

Summary of discussion.—The present rule makes the Khatedar responsible for the destruction by fire, of, or other accidental damage to, sandal trees standing on his Khate land thereby rendering him liable to pay the value of the trees so destroyed. It is impossible for the Khatedar to have an eye on these trees as he possesses lands in different places. The Khatedar should be made responsible only for the damage done by him wilfully or through his carelessness and not for the damage caused otherwise.

Dewan's reply.—This is impossible. A rule of long standing is that the Khatedar is bound to take care of the sandal trees growing on his lands. The rule cannot be relaxed. Cases of sandal growing on old occupied lands are comparatively rare. In recently occupied lands where grown up trees exist, the lands were taken up with the trees on them and therefore there can be no hardship. Occupation, under law, carries with it the duty of protecting the sandal trees. Wilful damage to them is criminally punishable.

Subject No. 78.
Tank repair contracts should be given to local men.

Summary of discussion.—Contracts for the repair and restoration of tanks should be given, as far as possible, to local men interested in the tank and in its security and efficiency. They are, as a rule, given to outsiders who have no interest in the tank and who only look to the profit they can gain by the contract and are thus under a temptation to turn out bad work.

Dewan's reply.—This has often been represented before and the order exists to give preference to local men. But the complaint on the part of the Public Works Department Offi-

cers is that local men do not come forward to take up such contracts, as the representations here made imply. The rule exists, and in any case in which it is not observed by local officials, the matter should be brought to Chief Engineer's notice when it will be duly examined.

Subject No. 79.
Restoration of Tiruganimadavu anikat across the Kumudvati River.

Summary of discussion.—The anikat called Tiruganimadavu across the Kumudvati River near Kalmane has fallen into disrepair many years since. If the anikat is repaired, the water may irrigate lands to a distance of 20 miles and may also be used to feed a number of large tanks. The additional revenue to be derived thereby is expected to be Rs. 10,000. The work will prove beneficial both to the raiyats and to the Government.

Dewan's reply.—It is understood that the project was examined by the Public Works Department and abandoned on engineering grounds.

Subject No. 80.
Some parts of Sorab Taluk wrongly classed as Maidan for Forest Rules.

Summary of discussion.—For purposes of the Forest Rules, six maganis of the Sorab Taluk are classed as Malnad and the rest as Maidan (Notification No. 1687, dated 23rd October 1887). But the Tavanandi Magani with the exception of Mandadoddi-Koppa village and the village of Udu and all the villages of the Andagi Magani are purely Malnad also, and owing to the heavy rains, timber used in buildings rots here quite as soon as in the parts classed as Malnad. These tracts should therefore also be classed as Malnad.

Dewan's reply.—Inquiry will be made and if the concession recommended be found necessary, favorable orders will be given.

Subject No. 81.
Thick branches required from Soppinbettas for manure.

Summary of discussion.—According to the old practice, branches as thick as an arm or leg were lopped from the trees in Soppinbettas. But by the recent rulings raiyats are not allowed to cut branches more than one inch in thickness. It is not possible for the raiyats to act up to the present orders, as it is not practicable for raiyats to climb the trees and select such thin branches only. The old practice may therefore be allowed.

Dewan's reply.—The necessary freedom will be obtained by raiyats when Soppinbettas are (as proposed to be done next season) demarcated and assigned for their own use, after which any one man's waste can affect no one else.

Subject No. 82.
Wood of Matti, Tadasalu and Bilvari trees should not be reserved, as they are required for agricultural purposes.

Summary of discussion.—The Malnad raiyats had the use of (1) Matti, (2) Tadasalu and (3) Bilvari trees for agricultural purposes. But ever since their inclusion among the reserved kinds of trees, it is very difficult for the raiyats to get hard wood for agricultural implements among the unre-